Business: Stock market's nearly 13% plunge is worst day in more than three decades and has Wall Street talking recession. A8

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COVID-19 DISEASE

Two dead from virus

Patients in Coachella Valley are first deaths in Riverside County; public health director announces new restrictions in an effort to slow the rate of infection

PHOTOS BY WILL LESTER – STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

San Bernardino High School sophomore Dohnovan Simmons, 15, receives his free lunch from school cafeteria worker Leticia Trevino on Monday.

By Ryan Hagen
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Two COVID-19 patients in the Coachella Valley have died, becoming the first deaths associated with the novel coronavirus in Riverside County, the county's top health officer announced Monday.

Dr. Cameron Kaiser, the county public health officer, said he was also revising his previous order that limited public gatherings of more than 250 people. Now, no more than 10 people should gather at a time, Kaiser said.

"Our thoughts are with the families of the two patients," Kaiser said in a news release. "Sadly, these outcomes are expected as we face a serious challenge and continue to make the necessary decisions to protect the health of the community."

The announcement came the day that neighboring San Bernardino County reported its second case of the new coronavirus, in a 54-year-old man with underlying health conditions. Officials said he had come into contact with people who had recently traveled from Washington state.

The Riverside County deaths from COVID-19, the disease caused by the new virus, were announced the same day the county confirmed its 15th case of residents with the coronavirus. Two haven't returned to the county

DEATHS » PAGE 5

Inland Empire: After shutdown, area schools offer families food and child care

By Ryan Hagen
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Children who normally rely on their schools to provide meals gathered in small groups or drove to pickup sites to get them Monday, the first day of a closure meant to reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus.

School officials had hesitated to close schools despite the large crowds that could spread COVID-19, pointing to, among other things, the burden it would place on families that don't have access to child care or money for meals.

Most school districts in the Inland Empire offered meals to go during breakfast and lunch hours at all or most of their schools.

In several of the largest districts, relatively few people took advantage of the offer, but those who did said it was important.

FOOD » PAGE 4

San Bernardino High School student Chompol Kanyamasa, 16, eats his lunch with friends in the school cafeteria Monday. While schools are closed because of the coronavirus pandemic, students will be eligible for a free lunch at the school.

INSIDE: Officials say there are 15 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the region, with 11 thought to be locally acquired. PAGE A3

Washington: Trump shifts to a more somber tone on virus; new guidelines issued

By Jonathan Lemire, Andrew Taylor and Jill Colvin
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » Racing to stall an expected surge of coronavirus cases, the White House on Monday released a series of sweeping guidelines that for the next 15 days will temporarily rewrite the norms of American society.

President Donald Trump, employing a newly somber tone about the crisis enveloping the globe, urged all older Americans to stay home and everyone to avoid crowds and eating out at restaurants. The president for the first time acknowledged that the pandemic may send the economy into a recession and suggested that the nation may be dealing with the virus until "July or August."

"Someday soon, hopefully, it will end, and we'll be back to where it was," Trump said,

TRUMP » PAGE 5

SAN BERNARDINO TERRORIST ATTACK

Shooter's mother admits destroying evidence

Rafia Shareef: I shredded map I found in his home

By Brian Rokos
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Rafia Sultana Shareef, the mother of one of the shooters in the 2015 San Bernardino terrorist attack, pleaded guilty Monday to one count of destroying evidence — a map drawn by her son in preparation for the siege.

Shareef, also known as Rafia Farook, was ordered to return to U.S. District Court in Riverside on June 15 for sentencing. She faces a maximum of 20 years in federal prison. But under the plea agreement, she will serve no more than 18 months. Judge Jesus G. Bernal, who accepted Shareef's plea, could accept that sentencing recommendation or impose his own term.

Shareef, 66, is out of custody. Her ex-husband, Syed Farook, posted a $20,000 appearance bond and was in court. At one point Monday, before her change-of-plea hearing began, Shareef was allowed to walk out of the courtroom unescorted and use a bathroom.

Shareef pleaded not guilty to the charge at a 10 a.m. hearing before Judge Sheri Pym. Then at 11, Shareef withdrew her plea and pleaded guilty after extensive questioning by Bernal to make sure that she understood the consequences of the change.

"I plead guilty," Shareef said.

The plea agreement says Shareef,

SHAREEF » PAGE 5

ILLUSTRATION BY BILL ROBLES

Rafia Sultana Shareef, the mother of a shooter slain in the Dec. 2, 2015, terrorist attack in San Bernardino, pleaded guilty Monday to a charge of destroying evidence.

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